

WP 21 g. 40/27

A Friend to good Government and to Public Tranquillity,

MOST earnestly recommends to those, who have an opportunity, *to read with attention the Bill* now depending in Parliament, for preventing Seditious Meetings, as the best ANSWER to the Misrepresentations which Anarchists have circulated against it.--He solicits the attention of those, who may not have such opportunity, to the following short, but correct Outline of it:

In the first place, the first Clause of the Bill *expressly excepts* from its operation, all County Meetings, all Meetings of Corporate Bodies, as well as Meetings of *every Description* called by Two Magistrates.

The Bill, in fact, applies only to *such other* Meetings, the object of which, real or pretended, is the Redress of some Public Grievance, or some Alteration in Church or State.

From the Promoters of such Meetings, a Public Notice is required by the Bill, of their intention to assemble (as is the constant practice of all other Public Meetings,) *not summoning* any Magistrate to attend, but only enabling them by such Advertisement, to do so, should they have reason to suspect a *sedition intent* in such Meeting.

Should such seditious intent appear evident, from Proceedings held at such Meetings, Two Magistrates are empowered by the Bill to dissolve it; for the exercise of which discretionary power, *they are responsible* to the Courts of Law.

Persons who mean to read Lectures on Political Subjects, and for Money, *and no others*, are required to apply for a License to do so, to Two Magistrates. THE WHOLE BILL IS TEMPORARY.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS.

This is not a Bill to inflict Pains and Penalties, but merely a *Bill of Prevention*; to increase the Security of His MAJESTY's Royal Person--(which the late flagitious Attempt on His Life makes absolutely necessary)--to maintain the Public Tranquillity, and to preserve the Constitution.--*There is no additional Power whatever* given to Government by the Bill, or to either House of Parliament; but only a Power to a description of Gentlemen, perhaps the most independent in the Kingdom, to be exercised under a responsible discretion.--THE RIGHT OF PETITIONING TO THE KING OR TO PARLIAMENT, REMAINS EXACTLY AS THE BILL FINDS IT. The obligation to take out a License to read Political Lectures, is by no means so strong a measure as that on Play-Houses to do the same; which has never been objected to. The Bill *will expire*, when the spirit of Sedition and Treason, which Levelling Clubs have unfortunately been too successful in exciting, shall have subsided.

*Let the Public examine with Attention, and without Prejudice,
and judge for itself.*